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2022

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REMOVED BY DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DATE
TS AUTH. OVER, 1980
REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

PIERRE S. DU PONT
GOVERNOR

FREDRICK H. STERN
PRESS SECRETARY

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JONESTOWN

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
Dec. 13, 1978

GOVERNOR ASKS REMOVAL OF BODIES TO CALIFORNIA

Governor du Pont has sent the following telegram to President Carter today requesting the removal of bodies from Dover Air Force Base to California. The text is as follows:

"In reference to 900 deceased Jonestown victims now awaiting disposition at Dover Air Force Base, I request your assistance in making U. S. military aircraft available to remove all victims to California, the site of most victims' families and of the religious cult responsible for the appropriate disposition of its deceased members.

"This request is made in conjunction with the efforts of Congresswoman Yvonne Burke of California, and on behalf of the many families who wish, but cannot afford, to have their deceased relatives returned to them for burial.

"Delaware is prepared to expedite and assist in the release of all the deceased from the State for air transport to California.

"I would urge the fastest possible action in the return of the victims to California, and we are prepared to assist you in any way possible."